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From the New York Times.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

Sketch of his Life and Public Career.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST.]

Early in the summer of 1841, Mr. Webster

reopened the question of the North-

Eastern Boundary, by moving the British

Government to negotiate upon the new

basis of a conventional line. The proposition

was received at London at the moment when

the Whig Government was about to resign

office, and it met with no response

until the following December, when Lord

Aburton, Foreign Secretary in the Cabinet

of Sir Robert Peel, appointed Mr. Webster

his minister at St. James, with the intention

of Her Majesty's Government to send a

special agent to the United States, in order

to adjust all unsettled questions. Lord

Aburton, the agent selected, was recommended

not only by his acquaintance with American

character and affairs, but by the personal

friendship for Mr. Webster, formed during

the visit of the latter to England, in 1839.

Lord Aburton arrived in Washington in

April, 1842. Mr. Webster had already ap-

pointed to the Government of Maine and Mas-

sachusetts to appoint commissioners who

should participate in and sanction the negoti-

ations, and the question, with all the col-

lateral issues, was at once entered upon.

The State papers which emanated from Mr.

Webster, in the course of this transaction,

are among the most masterly productions of

American intellect. They embrace the

whole rationale of the subject, they success-

fully state, in terms so lucid, and with

judgment so correct, as to form a new era

in the history of international law. The treaty

itself, undoubtedly accomplished all that

could be accomplished at the time. Lord

Aburton was not prepared to enter upon

the subject of the Oregon boundary, and

that was the only question which the Con-

vention left unsettled. The boundary upon

the North-east was fixed upon the basis of

a conventional line, approved by the Com-

missioners of Maine and Massachusetts—the

parties more immediately interested.

The Right of Search was disfranchised;

and as a substitute, both nations engaged to

maintain sufficient squadrons on the African

coast, to repress the slave-trade. An agree-

ment for the reciprocal surrender of fugi-

tives from justice was framed; and the mi-

nor questions, relating to the capture of the

Caroline, and the case of the Creole, were

the subject of highly satisfactory correspond-

ence, which has effectively prevented a

recurrence of similar transactions. The

labors of the negotiators were terminated

on the 9th of August, 1842, and two days

afterwards, the treaty was signed at Wash-

ington. The Committee on Foreign Relations,

of which Hon. William C. Rives was Chair-

man, reported it on the 15th, without amend-

ment; and on the 20th, the Senate assented

to the treaty, unamended, by a vote of 38

to 9. Among the affirmative votes, we

find the names of Messrs. John C. Cal-

houn, Rufus Choate, John M. Clayton, J. J.

Crittenden, George Evans, William R. King,

Willie P. Mangum, William C. Preston,

W. C. Rives, N. P. Tallmadge, Silas Wright,

Levi Woodbury. In the negative, the only

notable names were those of Messrs. Ben-

jamin and Buchanan.

The treaty of Washington, the ratifica-

tions of which were presently afterwards

exchanged in London, classes with the most

remarkable State papers of the time. The

entire treaty between the five great

powers for the suppression of the slave trade,

which was signed in December, 1841, fell

clear and eloquent statement of the rights

and duties of the two nations under such

circumstances. The Mexican frontier was

less respected in the line of its commis-

sioners than was fitting the dignity of our

Government, and Mr. Webster closed the

correspondence with a reiterated appeal

of our entire neutrality, and an exhorta-

tion of our people to have any further

course upon the subject. At the same time,

the case of the Spanish brig *Amelia* re-

mained unsettled on the files of the Depart-

ment, where it had been left by the previous

administration. The vessel had been found

by one of our home squadrons, lying close

to the American coast, and in the possession

of a band of negroes, who had murdered

the officers, and were too unsifted to man-

age the ship. It was brought into port, and

a claim for salvage stated against it. While

the matter was in this posture, the *Chaveller*

of Argon, the Spanish minister, addressed

the Secretary of State, protesting against

the reference of the case to the Courts, when

as he maintained, it should be treated by the

Executive, as relating directly to treaty ob-

ligations. This letter led to prolonged cor-

respondence, in which Mr. Webster defend-

ed the course pursued by his Government,

so successfully as to silence, if not satisfy,

the Spanish Envoy. And as a portion of

the diplomatic history of the period, we must

not omit mention of the admirable inspec-

tions addressed to Mr. Caleb Cushing, when

that gentleman was about to embark on the

delicate mission of opening relations with

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signature. This was withheld, and the bill

was vetoed. Mr. Clay at once denounced

the President's action of official withdrawal

of the bill, and a whirlwind of obloquy and de-

struction was at once poured upon the

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